



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 July 2006

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- Reuters reports the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission says the U.S. power grid has performed well this week as record electricity demand has stretched across six key regions. (See item [3](#))
- The Associated Press reports thousands of travelers across the western United States and Canada were delayed on Tuesday, July 18, by an 80-minute power outage at a major air traffic control center in Palmdale that directs flights through Southern California. (See item [9](#))
- Miami Local10 reports that almost 100 people were transported to hospitals on Tuesday, July 18, after a massive cruise ship, the Crown Princess, tipped to its side off the Florida coast due to problems with the steering equipment. (See item [11](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 19, U.S. Department of Energy* — **DOE providing additional supercomputing resources to study hurricane effects on Gulf Coast.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced Wednesday, July 19, that the Office of Science has provided an additional 400,000 supercomputing processor-hours to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to simulate Gulf Coast

hurricanes. The allocation brings the amount of computational time provided by DOE on supercomputers at its National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC) in California to 800,000 processor-hours. From the initial simulations, the Corps computed draft storm stage-frequency curves for the critical five-parish area of Louisiana surrounding New Orleans and the Lower Mississippi River. With the expanded allocation, the Corps will perform simulations for the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas coast lines. This will allow researchers to produce more accurate models for calculating the effects of future hurricanes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will study the simulations to develop new flood maps for the state of Louisiana and to support other aspects of the Gulf Hurricane Protection Projects. For more information about the NERSC Center: <http://www.nersc.gov/>. For more information on the Corps of Engineers: <http://www.usace.army.mil/>. Source: <http://www.energy.gov/news/3846.htm>

2. *July 19, Associated Press* — **Power being restored to Pennsylvania customers after heavy storms.** Utility crews were gradually restoring service Wednesday, July 19, to the more than 400,000 customers in the Philadelphia area who lost power during strong wind and thunderstorms. The severe weather Tuesday night hit especially hard, where Peco Energy reported 365,000 outages, mostly in the suburbs. By 2 p.m. Wednesday, the utility had restored service to about 145,000 customers, spokesperson Cathy Engel said. Crews were expected to work around the clock to restore electricity to the remaining customers, but it could take until this weekend for power to be fully restored in some suburban areas, Engel said. Allentown-based PPL Electric Utilities was less hard hit by the storm, but was still working Wednesday to restore power to more than 4,900 customers in the Lancaster area. PPL, which serves parts of eastern and central Pennsylvania, suffered more than 44,000 outages at the peak of the storm, but expected to have service fully restored by early Thursday morning, spokesperson Nancy Bishop said. The storms broke a two-day heat wave that saw temperatures soar into the high 90s.

Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/103-07192006-685999.html>

3. *July 18, Reuters* — **FERC: U.S. power grid holding up under record usage.** The U.S. power grid has performed well this week as record electricity demand has stretched across six key regions, the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said on Tuesday, July 18. "The past 24 hours has been the most severe test of the system in a long time," FERC Chairman Joseph Kelliher said in an interview, pointing to an improbable situation where triple-digit temperatures sent power demand to record highs on grids from coast to coast. Power grids that collectively serve 28 states in the Midwest and mid-Atlantic regions, along with separate grids in California, New York, and Texas, logged all-time records on Monday, as customers cranked up air conditioners to dodge the heat. The U.S. grid is not out of the woods yet, with hot temperatures still in store this summer, Kelliher said. So far the U.S. grid has escaped a repeat of the August 2003 blackout that left 50 million people in the Northeast United States and Canada without power. FERC has called for new mandatory reliability standards and issued new rules to spur investment in power grids and power generation plants.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2006-07-18T214527Z\\_01\\_N18456142\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_UTILITIES-FERC.XML](http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=2006-07-18T214527Z_01_N18456142_RTRIDST_0_UTILITIES-FERC.XML)

## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

4. *July 18, Reuters* — **Banks to red flag ID theft risks.** U.S. regulators on Tuesday, July 19, said they plan to require all banks to develop an identity theft prevention program for customers that includes "red flags" about suspicious account activity. The new practices would also require credit and debit card issuers to assess the validity of a request for a change of address which is followed by a request for an additional card, the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.) said. The proposed regulations would require each bank, thrift and creditor to adopt procedures for detecting, preventing and mitigating identity theft. The programs must verify the identity of a person opening a new account. They are also required to include red flags that can signal possible risks when accounts are opened or changed.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Banks+to+red+flag+ID+theft+risks/2100-7348\\_3-6095684.html](http://news.com.com/Banks+to+red+flag+ID+theft+risks/2100-7348_3-6095684.html)

5. *July 17, U.S. Department of Justice* — **California man admits fraudulently accessing personal information in Merlin information database.** A Simi Valley man pleaded guilty Monday, July 17, to federal criminal charges for fraudulently obtaining personal information for thousands of victims from Merlin Information Services and using that information to commit identity theft by opening up credit card accounts. Brian Dill, 33, pleaded guilty to accessing a protected computer to conduct fraud and using an unauthorized access device (credit card). Dill admitted that he accessed the Merlin database service under false pretenses by claiming to be a private investigator. Dill used the database to fraudulently obtain personal information belonging to other people. Dill conducted at least 1,873 queries through the Merlin system to obtain information on approximately 5,875 people. Dill admitted using a fraudulently obtained credit card to make unauthorized purchases totaling over \$2,000. Additionally, Dill admitted providing information fraudulently obtained from Merlin, as well as fraudulently obtained credit cards, to friends and acquaintances.

Source: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cac/pr2006/093.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

6. *July 19, Boston Globe* — **MBTA commuter rail struggles to meet surge in ridership.**

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) commuter rail — the new way to work for thousands because of the Big Dig tunnel closings — struggled on Tuesday, July 18, with new speed restrictions and disabled trains that delayed and infuriated riders. Equipment breakdowns have become so widespread this week that the company running commuter rail for the MBTA can't put enough cars on the tracks to meet demand. Officials ordered mechanics to work consecutive overtime shifts over the next several days to put more coaches on the lines.

Source: [http://www.boston.com/news/traffic/bigdig/articles/2006/07/19/commuter\\_rail\\_struggles\\_to\\_meet\\_surge\\_in\\_ridership/](http://www.boston.com/news/traffic/bigdig/articles/2006/07/19/commuter_rail_struggles_to_meet_surge_in_ridership/)

7. *July 19, Associated Press* — **Lightning sparks gas fire at Rhode Island dock.** Fire engulfed a dock area at the Port of Providence on Tuesday night, July 18, when lightning struck as a tanker was unloading gasoline, sending large plumes of smoke and fireballs into the air. Officials said the ship was able to safely pull away from the dock. Assistant Fire Chief Mark Pare said the 600-foot tanker was unloading gas when lightning struck nearby and set off a fire. He said no injuries were reported. The blaze had been largely contained by early Wednesday, although firefighters were allowing smoldering flames near the dock to burn out, said Armand Randolph, a spokesperson for the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency. The state Department of Environmental Management is investigating whether any fuel spilled into the harbor, said Jeff Neal, a spokesperson for Governor Don Carcieri. Roy Nash, Coast Guard captain of the port for southeastern New England, said ship traffic was temporarily suspended in Providence Harbor until the tanker was able to dock elsewhere. The fire happened at a terminal owned by Motiva Enterprises, a Houston-based joint operation between Saudi Refining Inc. and Shell Oil Co. Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-07-19-dock-fire\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-07-19-dock-fire_x.htm)

8. *July 19, USA TODAY* — **Project to protect airliners in doubt.** Nearly three years after the government began \$100 million worth of tests on lasers that could thwart missiles aimed at planes, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) says the systems are too fragile and expensive to put on commercial jets. And despite concerns that a terrorist armed with a shoulder-fired missile could fire on a jet carrying Americans, DHS spokesperson Christopher Kelly says it will be 18 more months before analysts determine whether the defense systems can be made to last and installed without a hefty price tag. Tests show the systems, now used on some military planes, break down after 300-to-400 hours of use, a failure rate that would cause chaos in the aviation system. DHS is also preparing to test other systems, including some that could be set up around airports to protect against a terrorist missile. Although no U.S. passenger plane has been shot at with a shoulder-fired missile, the inexpensive, widely available missiles have been used against passenger and cargo planes abroad. Even an attempted shooting down of a U.S. plane could have a devastating effect on the troubled airline industry and the economy. Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-07-18-air-security\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-07-18-air-security_x.htm)

9. *July 19, Associated Press* — **California air traffic center outage investigated.** Thousands of travelers across the western United States and Canada were stalled by an 80-minute power outage at a major air traffic control center that directs flights through Southern California. The outage at Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center in Palmdale, reported shortly after 5:30 p.m. PDT on Tuesday, July 18, shut down all telephone, electrical and radar functions. Power was restored when the center's backup generator kicked in shortly before 7 p.m., said Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration. A spokesperson for

Southern California Edison said a vehicle that crashed into a power pole in Palmdale caused a power fluctuation, which caused the air traffic control center's backup generator to turn on automatically. About an hour later that generator failed. "Their backup generator sensed there was a problem and kicked in, but for some inexplicable reason it malfunctioned," said Marlon Walker, a utility spokesperson. At Los Angeles International Airport, the world's fifth busiest in passenger volume, 221 flights with about 25,000 passengers were delayed, diverted to other airports, or canceled, said airport spokesperson Nancy Castles. At San Diego International Airport, all departing flights were delayed. Airports in the San Francisco Bay Area were also affected.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-07-18-calif-flights-grounded\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-07-18-calif-flights-grounded_x.htm)

10. *July 19, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-997T: Rail Transit: Observations on FTA's State Safety Oversight Program (Testimony).** The U.S. rail transit system is a vital component of the nation's transportation infrastructure, carrying millions of people daily. Unlike most transportation modes, safety and security oversight of rail transit is the responsibility of state-designated oversight agencies following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements. In addition, in 2001, Congress passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, giving the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) authority for security over all transportation modes, including rail transit. This testimony from the Government Accountability Office is based on ongoing work for this subcommittee's committee — the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. GAO describes (1) how the State Safety Oversight program is designed; (2) what is known about the impact of the program on rail safety and security; and (3) challenges facing the program. GAO also provides information about oversight of transit systems that cross state boundaries. To address these issues, GAO reviewed program documents and interviewed stakeholders including officials from FTA, TSA, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the American Public Transportation Association. GAO also surveyed state oversight and transit agencies covered by FTA's program, interviewing 24 of the 25 oversight agencies and 37 of 42 transit agencies across the country. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06997thigh.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-997T>

11. *July 19, Local10 (FL)* — **One hundred people injured, 20 seriously in cruise ship incident.** Officials said Wednesday, July 19, that almost 100 people were transported to hospitals after a massive cruise ship tipped to its side off the Florida coast. All 3,100 passengers and 1,200 crewmembers of the Crown Princess have been accounted for. At least 20 people suffered serious injuries, including a child and an adult with injuries considered critical. About 240 passengers were treated onboard for minor injuries. The ship was about 11 miles southeast of Port Canaveral en route to New York late Tuesday, July 18, when its crew reported problems with the steering equipment. The ship listed hard to one side, then slowly came back up and headed for the port. Sarah Feingold, a passenger on the ship, told Local 10 that passengers were thrown to the floor and into walls, items went flying off shelves, and furniture was smashed. She said the water was dumped out of the pools and there was broken glass all over the ship. The ship is owned by Princess Cruises, one of 12 brands operated by Miami-based Carnival Corp. The company said it was investigating the roll's cause. The Coast Guard planned to inspect the ship Wednesday.  
Source: <http://www.local10.com/news/9543377/detail.html>



12. *July 18, Reuters* — **Power outages hit New York subway, LaGuardia.** Searing summer heat wreaked havoc on travel plans for New Yorkers on Tuesday, July 18, as power outages shut parts of LaGuardia International Airport and the city's subway system during the morning rush hour. Terminals of American Airlines, Delta Airlines, and the Marine Terminal were without full power, said a spokesperson for Consolidated Edison, which delivers power to LaGuardia, the closest major airport to Manhattan. By mid-morning, Delta had canceled eight flights bound for Boston or Washington, DC. American Airlines said it had canceled 13 flights from LaGuardia and re-routed some inbound flights to nearby airports in New York and New Jersey. Also, a power failure stopped trains on the west side of Manhattan, and in the borough of Brooklyn from 9:30 a.m. EDT, said New York City Transit. The trains were stopped for part of the rush-hour commute because signals were off without the power. Some riders were stuck inside trains for up to an hour without air-conditioning while the problems were worked on. Source: <http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?stid=10&aid=61109>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *July 19, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Last remaining Illinois Asian longhorned beetle quarantine area deregulated.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wednesday, July 19, announced that it is deregulating the Oz Park quarantine area in Cook County, leaving Illinois free of active Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) quarantine zones. Through intensive inspections, APHIS has determined that ALB no longer presents a risk of spread from the nine-square mile quarantine zone. This action is consistent with ALB eradication protocols, as there have been no additional ALB finds in the Oz Park area or any other areas of Illinois since November 2003. With the final Cook County quarantine zone deregulated, firewood, lumber, nursery stock and other materials that serve as hosts for the invasive beetle now can be moved freely through the region. Since ALB was discovered in Chicago's Ravenswood area in 1998, the pest has been responsible for the destruction of more than 1,551 infested trees in Illinois. ALB was initially discovered in New York in 1996, and since then, several infestations have also been uncovered in New Jersey counties in 2002 and 2004. ALB information: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/alb>. Source: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/07/alb\\_deregulate\\_illinois.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/07/alb_deregulate_illinois.shtml)

14. *July 19, Asheville Citizen-Times (North Carolina)* — **Blue mold hits local tobacco stands.** Blue mold, which can devastate entire fields of burley tobacco, has been reported in Buncombe and Madison, NC. It spreads through spores on the wind and even fog, and farmers generally consider it one of the more serious problems they fight each growing season. Burley tobacco is a major cash crop in the mountains. In recent years, on average about 4,000 mountain growers sell their crops in Asheville's auction houses, generating between eight million and \$10 million

in revenue. The fungus-like blue mold stunts growth and reduces plants' weight, which in turn hurts the growers' bottom line at harvest time. "What's so devastating with this disease is that once you see it, it's been on plant for 10 days," said Elizabeth Ayers, an agricultural extension agent. It is not known exactly how many of the county's 500 growers are affected. Kenneth Reeves, director of the Buncombe County Cooperative Extension office, said blue mold has been reported in Barnardsville, with a 20 percent infestation in one field.

Source: <http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060719/NEWS01/60719018/1119>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Food Sector**

15. *July 19, Reuters* — **Vegetables to get Olympic identity codes.** China plans to begin tracking its vegetables. In an attempt to ensure food safety during the 2008 Olympics, Beijing is to give every cabbage, carrot and pea pod its own identity number and file. If there is a "safety incident" the vegetable's file can be immediately checked and its origins traced. After going through inspections at the distribution center, standard and qualified vegetables can enter Olympic kitchens.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-07-19T120800Z\\_01\\_PEK341632\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-CHINA-VEGETABLES.xml](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2006-07-19T120800Z_01_PEK341632_RTRUKOC_0_US-CHINA-VEGETABLES.xml)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

16. *July 19, Asbury Park Press (New Jersey)* — **System to warn about water troubles.** By the end of the year, United Water Toms River could have a "rapid alert" system in effect to inform residents of any emergencies or problems with the water supply. "It's a little bit like a reverse 911 system," United Water New Jersey President Robert Iacullo said, referring to an emergency notification system typically used by police and fire departments. Iacullo said the rapid response system has been tested at a United Water facility in Pennsylvania, where there was recently extensive flooding. The computerized system would be used to notify residents of certain neighborhoods by phone in the event of a localized water-pressure problem or an outage. It could also be used to notify all township residents of any emergencies, Iacullo said.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060719/NEWS02/607190389/1070>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health Sector**

17. *July 19, Los Angeles Times* — **Sailors exposed to tuberculosis to be screened.** Navy medical personnel are giving tuberculosis (TB) tests to more than 400 sailors and three-dozen civilians after a sailor aboard the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan was hospitalized with active TB, officials said Tuesday, July 18. The infected 32-year-old petty officer first class was aboard

the carrier when it returned July 6 after a six-month deployment, along with 4,800 military personnel and 1,200 family members and others who joined the ship in Hawaii for a "tiger cruise."

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-tb19jul19.1.617718.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>

18. *July 19, USA TODAY* — **States hesitant to buy bird flu drugs.** At least six states plan to buy smaller quantities of antiviral drugs than the federal government has offered them. Comments from state officials who replied to USA TODAY queries highlight challenges facing the nation's pandemic-planning campaign, which includes stockpiling enough anti-virals to treat 25 percent of the population. Less than two weeks before a federal deadline for states to announce their plans, at least 16 say they're undecided how much Tamiflu and Relenza they'll buy. Thirteen others say they plan to buy their full allotments. Tamiflu and Relenza cut the severity of regular flu and may improve survival for bird flu victims, the World Health Organization says. The federal government plans to buy 44 million antiviral treatment courses for the states this fiscal year and next, enough to cover 17 percent of their populations. It wants states to buy 31 million more courses, to reach 25 percent. A course is the amount needed to treat one person.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/drugs/2006-07-18-flu-drugs-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/drugs/2006-07-18-flu-drugs-usat_x.htm)

19. *July 18, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Automated screening and confirmatory tests for hepatitis B surface antigen approved.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Tuesday, July 18, announced the approval of the first fully automated product that combines both screening and confirmatory tests for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). The HBsAg assay is approved to test people who donate blood, blood components, and organs for the hepatitis B virus. The test also may be used to screen blood from cadavers for organ and tissue donation. "This automated test system increases the efficiency and convenience of screening blood, tissue and organ donors for the hepatitis B virus," said Jesse Goodman, director of FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. Hepatitis B is caused by a virus that infects the liver. The virus, which is transmitted by blood, can, in some cases, cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure and death. A blood test is the only way to determine if a donor has hepatitis B infection. The HBsAg tests are fully automated, reducing the potential for operator errors.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01411.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Government Sector**

20. *July 19, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-957T: Purchase Cards: Control Weaknesses Leave DHS Highly Vulnerable to Fraudulent, Improper, and Abusive Activity (Testimony).** In the wake of the 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Region, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General (DHS OIG) initiated a number of audits and investigations addressing the federal government's response to those events. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) cardholders made thousands of transactions related to hurricane rescue and relief operations. GAO, working



with DHS OIG, interviewed DHS personnel and reviewed purchase card policies and procedures to assess the control environment. GAO and DHS OIG conducted statistical tests from a random sample of transactions and performed data mining on all DHS purchase card transactions for a 5-month period beginning in June 2005. GAO and DHS OIG looked at all transactions in this period because the database did not distinguish hurricane related from routine purchases. GAO and DHS OIG used the testing results to determine the extent of control weaknesses and identify instances of fraud, waste, and abuse. This testimony addresses whether (1) DHS's control environment and management of purchase card usage were effective; (2) DHS's key internal control activities operated effectively and provided reasonable assurance that purchase cards were used appropriately; and (3) indications existed of potentially fraudulent, improper, and abusive or questionable purchase card activity at DHS.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06957high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-957T>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

### **21. *July 19, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — Federal Emergency Management**

**Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Storm Beryl: At 5 a.m. EDT Wednesday, July 19, the center of Tropical Storm Beryl was located near latitude 34.7 north, longitude 73.7 west or about 110 miles east-southeast of Cape Hatteras, NC. A Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect for the eastern coast of North Carolina from north of Cape Lookout northward to south of Currituck Beach Light. Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph with higher gusts some slight strengthening is possible during the next 24 hours. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 70 miles from the center.

For the latest information on this see: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Eastern Pacific: Hurricane 5-E (Daniel) is 1000 miles southwest of Baja in the Pacific moving to the west and slowly intensifying. Based on the current warning this system does not pose a threat to the U.S. or its territories. Western Pacific: Tropical Storm 06W has passed south of Guam and is forecast to continue moving to the northwest as it slowly intensifies. Based on the current warning this system does not pose a threat to U.S. territories.

To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat071906.shtm>

### **22. *July 19, Reuters* — Indonesia revives stalled tsunami warning alarm.** Indonesia stepped up repairs of a tsunami detection buoy on Wednesday, July 19, in an effort to revive a stalled warning system after the quake-prone country failed to detect its second tsunami in almost as many years. The device on a ship at the Jakarta port is one of two buoys deployed off Sumatra Island last year as part of a project to install a tsunami early warning system to protect people living on the shores of Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago. Authorities dusted up the buoy in Jakarta amid mounting criticism after no sirens alerted residents of the southern Java coast of Monday's tsunami that killed more than 500 people and displaced thousands. On Wednesday, an earthquake measuring 6.2 shook the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, and its surroundings.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=tsunamiNews&storyID=2006-07-19T123201Z\\_01\\_JAK106370\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_UK-TSU](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=tsunamiNews&storyID=2006-07-19T123201Z_01_JAK106370_RTRUKOC_0_UK-TSU)

**23. *July 18, Belleville News Democrat (IL)* — Midwest prepares for New Madrid Fault exercise.**

Calling the 2007 Midwest disaster exercise SONS, for Spill of National Significance, is a misnomer, said Doug Eames, executive director of the exercise. The simulated disaster actually will be a large earthquake along the New Madrid Fault. When SONS 07 occurs in June of next year, it will test how well emergency agencies and industry response teams work by themselves and with each other in response to a large scale earthquake in the fault which causes heavy damage in a wide area. SONS 07 will take place in two stages over two weeks. The first week is the full-scale exercise with the initial responses by participants. The second week will feature round table discussions and vertical and horizontal plan alignment.

For more information on this exercise:

[https://www.sons-program.org/SONS/SONS\\_07.nsf/mainpage?OpenForm](https://www.sons-program.org/SONS/SONS_07.nsf/mainpage?OpenForm)

Source: <http://www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/news/local/15062909.htm>

**24. *July 18, Weekly (GA)* — Georgia launches new emergency and disaster Website.** Georgians have a new resource at their fingertips when they need information about a disaster or emergency, Governor Sonny Perdue announced Tuesday, July 18. Developed at the Governor's request, the newly launched Georgia911.org serves as a gateway to information regarding response and recovery activities, providing real-time information and a comprehensive list of available assistance during an emergency or disaster.

Website: <http://www.georgia911.org/>

Source: [http://www.theweekly.com/news/2006/July/18/Georgia\\_Web\\_Site.html](http://www.theweekly.com/news/2006/July/18/Georgia_Web_Site.html)

**25. *July 14, American National Standards Institute* — Katrina workshop cites national standards as “critical” for emergency preparedness.** Standards are “absolutely critical” to the success of emergency preparedness efforts in the U.S., according to George W. Foresman, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Under Secretary for Preparedness. Foresman spoke at a recent workshop of the American National Standards Institute’s Homeland Security Standards Panel that analyzed the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. The July 12th event brought together experts from the homeland security and emergency preparedness community in Washington, DC, to further national discussion of how standards, accreditation, and certification programs can help support the implementation of the key recommendations from the major federal reports on the Katrina aftermath. Representatives from the DHS National Incident Management System Integration Center, the DHS Hurricane Exercise Program, and the American Red Cross, were among others that delivered presentations which helped further identify challenges and the work underway post Katrina to better prepare our nation. A follow-up workshop meeting is planned for early fall.

Source: [http://www.ansi.org/news\\_publications/news\\_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=1268](http://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story.aspx?menuid=7&articleid=1268)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**26. *July 18, Security Focus* — Microsoft IIS ASP remote code execution vulnerability.**

Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS) is prone to a remote code-execution vulnerability.

Analysis: To exploit this issue, attackers must be able to place and execute malicious ASP pages on computers running the affected ASP server software. This may be an issue in shared-hosting environments.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/18858/info>

Solution: Microsoft has released an advisory along with fixes to address this issue. For more information: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/18858/references>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/18858/discuss>

27. *July 18, CNET News* — **Symantec sees an Achilles' heel in Vista.** Some of Microsoft's efforts to make Windows Vista its most stable and secure operating system ever could cause instability and new security flaws, according to a Symantec report. Researchers at Symantec examined the new networking technology in recent test releases of Vista, Microsoft's next major operating system release, according to the report. They found several security bugs and determined that Vista's networking technology will be less stable, at least in the short run, than Windows XP's, the report said. "Microsoft has removed a large body of tried and tested code and replaced it with freshly written code, complete with new corner cases and defects," the researchers wrote in the report. "This may provide for a more stable networking stack in the long term, but stability will suffer in the short term." Vista, slated to be broadly available in January, will be the first major new version of Windows for PCs since XP, which was released in 2001.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Symantec+sees+an+Achilles+heel+in+Vista/2100-7355\\_3-6095119.html?tag=nefd.top](http://news.com.com/Symantec+sees+an+Achilles+heel+in+Vista/2100-7355_3-6095119.html?tag=nefd.top)

28. *July 18, CNET News* — **Oracle plugs 65 security holes.** As part of its quarterly patch cycle, Oracle on Tuesday, July 18, released fixes for 65 security vulnerabilities that affect many of its products. Many of the vulnerabilities are significant; 27 of the 65 bugs could be exploited remotely by an anonymous attacker, Darius Wiles, senior manager for security alerts at Oracle, said in an interview. Oracle has no suggested workarounds for any of the issues. Instead it is urging customers to patch their systems. Oracle's July Critical Patch Update delivers remedies for 23 flaws related to Oracle's Database products, one related to the Collaboration Suite, 10 in Application Server, 20 related to E-Business Suite and Applications, four in the Enterprise Manager, two in PeopleSoft's Enterprise portal and one in JD Edwards software. In addition, the patch bunch includes fixes for four security vulnerabilities in client software that works with the Oracle database.

Oracle Critical Patch Update: <http://www.oracle.com/technology/deploy/security/critical-patch-updates/cpujul2006.html>

Source: [http://news.com.com/Oracle+plugs+65+security+holes/2100-1002\\_3-6095620.html](http://news.com.com/Oracle+plugs+65+security+holes/2100-1002_3-6095620.html)

29. *July 18, CNET News* — **Worm lurks behind MySpace profiles.** When a logged-in MySpace user goes to another member's "About me" page affected by the ACTS.Spaceflash worm, they are quietly redirected to a URL that holds a malicious Macromedia Flash file, Symantec said in an advisory on Spaceflash Tuesday, July 18. That file, in turn, will replace the visitor's own "About me" page with one that is compromised. "It's an annoyance, at this point, for users, but the capability exists where it can lead to malicious actions and steal sensitive information," said Dean Turner, senior manager of Symantec, which currently rates the Spaceflash threat as low.

Source: [http://news.com.com/Worm+lurks+behind+MySpace+profiles/2100-7349\\_3-6095533.html](http://news.com.com/Worm+lurks+behind+MySpace+profiles/2100-7349_3-6095533.html)

30. *July 17, Government Computer News* — **Open Source encryption module loses FIPS certification.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has revoked certification of the open-source encryption tool OpenSSL under the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS). OpenSSL in January became one of the first open-source software products to be validated under NIST's Computer Module Validation Program for FIPS-140-2. The certificate apparently was suspended in June when questions were raised about the validated module's interaction with outside software elements.  
Source: [http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1\\_no1/41371-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/41371-1.html)

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT is aware of active exploitation of a new vulnerability in Microsoft PowerPoint. Successful exploitation could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user running PowerPoint.

For more information please review the following vulnerability note:

**VU#936945:** Microsoft PowerPoint contains an unspecified remote code execution vulnerability. <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/936945>

US-CERT strongly recommends the following until an update, patch, or more information becomes available:

Do not open attachments from unsolicited email messages.

Install anti virus software, and keep its virus signature files up to date.

Limit user privileges to no administrator rights.

Save and scan any attachments before opening them.

US-CERT strongly encourages users not to open unfamiliar or unexpected email attachments, even if sent by a known and trusted source. Users may wish to read Cyber Security Tip ST04-010 for more information on working with email attachments. <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/tips/ST04-010.html>

US-CERT will continue to update current activity as more information becomes available.

**PHISHING SCAMS**

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

[http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report\\_phishing.html](http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html)

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

#### Current Port Attacks

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Top 10 Target Ports</b> | 44139 (---), 1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 4606 (---), 38566 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 51001 (---), 32790 (---), 113 (auth), 80 (www)<br>Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center |
|----------------------------|---|

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

31. *July 19, Idaho Mountain Express* — **Mysterious powder spurs hazardous waste scare.** An unknown contaminate found in the Limelight Convention Center at Idaho's Sun Valley Inn prompted a full-scale hazardous waste investigation last weekend during the final day of the Allen & Co. annual summer conference. The investigation ensued early Saturday, July 15, after Sun Valley Co. night security personnel reported a strange smell in the convention facility. "It was one of those situations. It was a lot of work and effort for a lot of people and it ended up being a non-event," said Jack Sibbach, Sun Valley director of sales, marketing, and public relations. Sun Valley police and fire departments responded at 1:45 a.m. to a call from Sun Valley Co. reporting a strange smell in the Limelight Room. The agencies found an unknown white powder on the surface of air handling equipment and on nearby vegetation at the back of the Sun Valley Inn. The mysterious nature of the substance prompted a full-day hazardous waste investigation that concluded when the material was confirmed to be brewer's yeast, commonly used for brewing beer. The scare coincided with the Allen & Co. annual summer conference, which was in full swing at Sun Valley Resort. Every July, the United States' wealthiest descend on Sun Valley for the five-day conference.

Source: [http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?issue\\_date=07-19-2006&ID=2005111412r](http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?issue_date=07-19-2006&ID=2005111412r)

32. *July 19, Gazette (MD)* — **Small fires at Maryland daycare believed intentional.** Montgomery County investigators are probing what appears to be a string of intentionally set, small fires at a Gaithersburg, MD, daycare center. Officials with La Petite Academy said the first incidents occurred in April, but the center did not alert parents until Monday, July 17, after additional incidents last week. Parents were notified of the situation in a letter distributed Monday. The letter signed by John Putnam, a district manager for La Petite Academy Inc, says

the fires were small and occurred away from areas occupied by children. The letter also states the center is working with fire investigators and suggests a center employee could be responsible for all the incidents. The letter has stirred dismay among parents who say they fear for their children's safety and insist the school should have notified them in April. The center accommodates about 90 students from newborn to 12 years old. La Petite Academy Inc. operates 650 company-owned properties in 36 states and Washington, DC. About 72,000 children are enrolled the programs and about 12,000 people are employed by the centers. Source: [http://www.gazette.net/stories/071906/gaitnew205223\\_31940.sh tml](http://www.gazette.net/stories/071906/gaitnew205223_31940.sh tml)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644 for more information.

### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

### **Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer**

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.